



Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program

Overview

The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) is a voluntary land retirement program that helps agricultural producers protect environmentally sensitive land, decrease erosion, restore wildlife habitat, and safeguard ground and surface water.

The program is a partnership among producers; tribal, state, and federal governments; and, in some cases, private groups. CREP is an offshoot of the country's largest private-lands environmental improvement program -- the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP).

Like CRP, CREP is administered by USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA). By combining CRP resources with state, tribal, and private programs, CREP provides farmers and ranchers with a sound financial package for conserving and enhancing the natural resources of farms.

CREP addresses high-priority conservation issues of both local and national significance, such as impacts to water supplies, loss of critical habitat for threatened and endangered wildlife species, soil erosion, and reduced habitat for fish populations such as salmon. CREP is a community-based, results-oriented effort centered around local participation and leadership.

Eligibility

A specific CREP project begins when a state, Indian tribe, local government, or local nongovernment entity identifies an agriculture-related environmental issue of state or national significance. These parties and FSA then develop a project proposal to address particular environmental issues and goals.

Enrollment in a state is limited to specific geographic areas and practices. To determine if your state and county are involved in CREP and if your land qualifies, contact your local county FSA office.

Like CRP, CREP contracts require a 10- to 15-year commitment to keep lands out of agricultural production. CREP provides payments to participants who offer eligible land. A federal annual rental rate, including an FSA state committee-determined maintenance incentive payment, is offered, plus cost-share of up to 50 percent of the eligible costs to install the practice. Further, the program generally offers a sign-up incentive for participants to install specific practices.

FSA uses CRP funding to pay a percentage of the program's cost, while state, tribal governments, or other non-federal sources provide the balance of the funds. States and private groups involved in the effort may also provide technical support and other in-kind services.

Benefits

For the landowner, CREP is not just a cost-effective way to address rural environmental problems and meet regulatory requirements; it can provide a viable option to supplement farm income as well.

CREP is convenient for producers because it is based on the familiar, highly successful CRP model. Land must be owned or leased for at least one year prior to enrollment to be eligible, and must be physically and legally capable of being cropped in a normal manner.

Land must also meet cropping history and other eligibility requirements. Enrollment can be on a continuous basis, permitting farmers and ranchers to join the program at any time rather than waiting for specific sign-up periods.

CREP supports increased conservation practices such as filter strips and forested buffers. These conservation practices help protect streams, lakes, and rivers from sedimentation and agricultural runoff.

CREP also helps landowners develop and restore wetlands through the planting of appropriate groundcover. Restoring water regimes helps protect national treasures like the Chesapeake Bay, Mammoth Cave, and the Florida Everglades. By maintaining clear

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goals and requiring annual monitoring, CREP helps participants measure progress and ensure success.

For More Information

For more information on CREP, contact your local FSA office or Soil and Water Conservation District office. Additional information is also available on FSA's Web site at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>

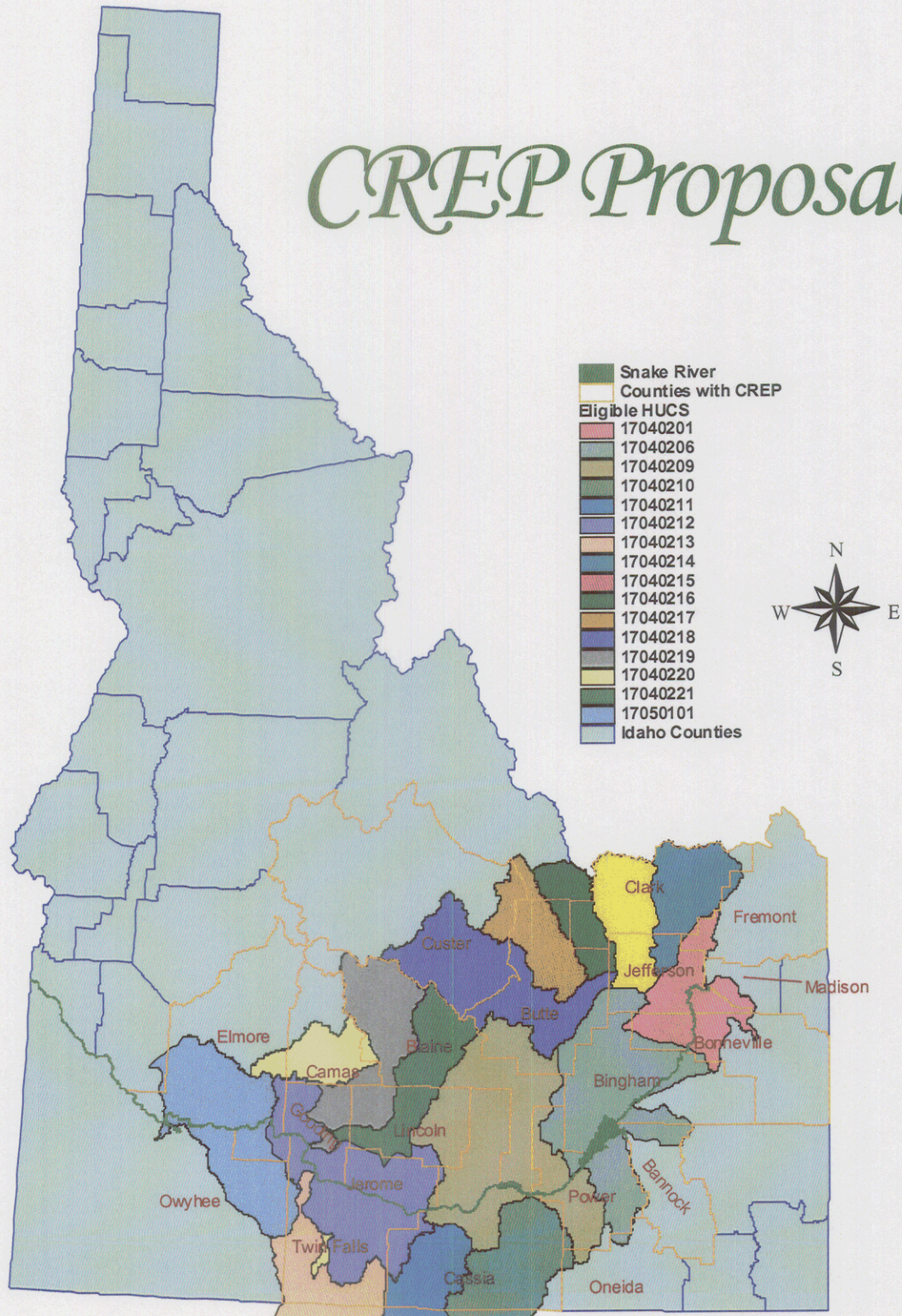
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United States Department of Agriculture

CREP Proposal



For discussion purposes only

Idaho CREP Working Group

Idaho CRP Enrollment Figures -- as of 9/30/2004

County	Total Cropland	Maximum CRP Enrollment (25% Cap)	Number of Current CRP Contracts	Current CRP Enrollment	Total Currently Available CRP Acres	Total Allowed CREP Acres (50% of 25%)
Bannock	193,150.9	48,287.7	376	85,131.0	0.0	0.0
Bingham	353,984.1	88,496.0	116	15,129.4	73,366.6	44,248.0
Blaine	61,379.4	15,344.9	7	723.2	14,621.6	7,672.4
Bonneville	349,889.2	87,472.3	468	89,358.1	0.0	0.0
Butte	75,152.5	18,788.1	22	1,068.3	17,719.8	9,394.1
Camas	120,955.1	30,238.8	55	6,768.6	23,470.2	15,119.4
Cassia	410,421.1	102,605.3	168	49,174.4	53,430.9	51,302.6
Clark	62,029.1	15,507.3	33	8,146.9	7,360.4	7,360.4
Custer	40,607.1	10,151.8	11	649.1	9,502.7	5,075.9
Elmore	147,318.5	36,829.6	14	1,453.9	35,375.7	18,414.8
Fremont	196,750.4	49,187.6	279	31,008.6	18,179.0	18,179.0
Gooding	117,368.7	29,342.2	1	2.7	29,339.5	14,671.1
Jefferson	261,806.5	65,451.6	25	4,186.1	61,265.5	32,725.8
Jerome	159,314.8	39,828.7	0	0.0	39,828.7	19,914.4
Lemhi	94,602.8	23,650.7	0	0.0	23,650.7	11,825.4
Lincoln	92,281.9	23,070.5	2	975.6	22,094.9	11,535.2
Madison	165,663.2	41,415.8	134	20,299.4	21,286.4	20,707.9
Minidoka	220,437.3	55,109.3	2	165.5	54,943.8	27,554.7
Owyhee	143,859.6	35,964.9	1	119.4	35,854.5	17,982.5
Power	463,400.9	115,850.2	504	136,375.1	0.0	0.0
Twin Falls	302,399.7	75,599.9	75	8,559.4	67,040.5	37,800.0



DRAFT #4 – October 7, 2004

Idaho Farm Service Agency CREP Ranking Sheet

Landowner Name: _____

Offer Number: _____

County: _____

Ranking Prepared By: _____

1. Basic Eligibility Answer each question yes or no. A single no answer makes the land ineligible for further consideration under CREP and should not be ranked.

Offered land is located in an eligible HUC _____

Offered land meets all cropping & irrigation requirements _____

Offered land is not irrigated from Snake River diversion _____

Land owner has arranged for required local match _____

2. Water Source (maximum 30 points)

Land under consideration is irrigated from which of the following sources

- Well pumped from Snake River Plain Aquifer – 30 points
- Well pumped from other than Snake River Plain Aquifer – 20 points
- Diversion other than Snake River – 10 points

3. Groundwater Right Priority (maximum 30 points)

The groundwater right associated with land under consideration dates from

- 1949 or earlier – 30 points
- 1962-1950 – 20 points
- 1973-1963 – 10 points
- 1974 or later – 0 points

4. Water Priority Areas (maximum 50 points)

Land under consideration is located near the Snake River

- Ban 1 (5 miles from Snake River) – 40 points
- Ban 2 (10 miles from Snake River) – 30 points
- Ban 3 (20 miles from Snake River) – 20 points
- Ban 4 (30 miles from Snake River) – 10 points
- Other – 0 points

Land under consideration is located in a recognized Critical Ground Water Area

- Yes – 10 points
- No – 0 points

5. Conservation Practices (maximum 20 points)

Land under consideration will be planted to which practice

- CP-22 (Riparian Buffers) – 20 points
- CP-4D (Permanent wildlife habitat) – 10 points
- CP-2 (Native grasses and legumes) – 5 points
- CP-1 (Introduced grasses and legumes) – 0 points

<p>6. Wildlife Priority Areas (<i>maximum 30 points</i>)</p> <p>Land under consideration is located in a recognized Wildlife Priority Area</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Yes – 10 points• No – 0 points <p>Land under consideration is adjacent to public lands (state or federal)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Yes – 10 points• No – 0 points <p>Land under consideration is adjacent to prioritized stream</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Yes – 10 points• No – 0 points	
<p>7. Size of Offer (<i>maximum 20 points</i>)</p> <p>The area of the land under consideration is</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 160 acres or more – 20 points• 80-159 acres – 10 points• 40-79 acres – 5 points• 39 acres or less – 0 points	
<p>TOTAL (<i>maximum 180 points</i>)</p>	